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matter how it may have originated, is propagating a weakened plant in so far as it has its normal amount of chlorophyll reduced. The fact that some sorts of the self-blanched celery have been found more susceptible to blights and decay bears directly upon this point. It is a pity that so many of our choicest variegated plants blight easily ; it is, however, natural that they should do so. Even a fungus parasite will take the line of least resistance.

Notes on the Flora of Southwestern Connecticut.

By L. N. Johnson.

Every season during the past ten years it has been the good fortune of the writer to spend some weeks collecting in southwestern Connecticut. As some of the finds were of interest these notes have been prepared for the purpose of placing them on record.

The face of the country is diversified, consisting of nearly parallel ridges running north and south, with their slopes about equally covered with woods of oak, chestnut, hickory and maple, and with cultivated ground. Every valley carries a stream, and following these a few miles to the south we come to the plain, which, varying in width, borders Long Island Sound, and furnishes the peculiar vegetation of the salt meadows and marshes. Most of the collecting here described was done in the valley of Mill River, and in the shore region around Bridgeport.

The ridge which runs north from Bridgeport finds its highest point in Tashua Hill, about six miles back from the shore. In the woods on its western slope, and in the adjacent valley, is an admirable collecting ground. Here we find *Cypripedium acaule* growing abundantly, and with it *Pogonia verticillata*, *Liparis liliifolia*, and a number of other orchids, including rarely *Cypripedium parviflorum*. Here too grows *Aristolochia Serpentaria*. It was formerly common, but is now nearly exterminated. The writer procured specimens from a neighbor, but could not induce him to tell the exact locality, as it is still prized as a medicine, and the secret carefully guarded by the lucky finder of its haunts.

In the level meadows along the river grow half a dozen *Habenarias*, most conspicuous of which are *H. psycodes*, with spikes sometimes a foot or more in length, and the more beautiful but very rare *H. fimbriata.* Here too grows *Iris prismatica,* and on a little point projecting into a pond *Hierochloë odorata.* In the lowland woods, among other interesting plants, *Viola rotundifolia* is frequent, and on higher ground *Viola pedata.* In this same valley a few specimens of *Pentstemon lævigatus* have been found, while *P. hirsutus* has not been seen, though it occurs a few miles to the eastward. *Drosera rotundifolia* occurs here, though not abundantly. Its habit is perhaps worth notice. It grows on the surface of a smooth ledge over which a little water is continually oozing, but there is very little soil.

In a swamp on the southwestern slope of Tashua Hill *Sium Carsonii* grows in great abundance, almost choking the brook in some places. It is confined to the bed and immediate banks of the stream. The locality is at present in danger of extermination by the dam of the new reservoir, which is in process of construction.

On the wooded ridge west of Tashua is a locality where *Woodwardia areolata* is abundant (over a small area). With it grow *Aster acuminatus, Pyrola elliptica* and *P. rotundifolia,* the two *Chimaphilas* and numerous other plants of interest. Not far distant *Botrychium lanceolatum* has been found, and still farther west is a swamp which is a favorite haunt of *Calla palustris,* and in the same vicinity *Carex umbellata* was found by the roadside, though recent search has failed to reveal any more specimens.

Following down Mill River some four miles, most of the way through rich collecting ground, we come to Samp Mortar Rock, a much-visited and very picturesque locality. Here in the stream one can find *Utricularia vulgaris* and *U. intermedia,* the latter creeping among the stones, and sending its naked bladder-bearing branches down to the water below. In the swift places the stones are covered with mats of *Podostemon ceratophyllus,* which may be seen in fruit in August. In the sand along the edge of the stream is *Callitriche Austini,* while in the river here, as elsewhere, *C. verna* is not uncommon, though not assigned to New England at all in the last edition of the Manual. Back from the river, on the sandy slopes in an old pasture, are several large patches of *Rubus cuneifolius.* Further up in the edge of the woods are *Oxalis violacea,* and *Aralia hispida,* and in the clefts of the overhanging rocks there is an abundance of *Asplenium Trichomanes*, and *Carex trisperma*. A few rods below, among the bushes, in an old pasture surrounded by woods, a single specimen of *Tradescantia Virginica* was seen. It was probably introduced, though it is hard to see how unless by the birds.

As one nears the shore he finds some species not noted before. In the woods north of Bridgeport an occasional specimen of *Microstylis unifolia* may be found, and along the shores of the ponds *Elatine Americana* occurs in profusion in several places. With it is *Myriophyllum ambiguum*. Of the latter we have found three forms, which seemed well-marked, growing within a few feet of each other. The first, which seems to agree with the var. *capillaceum* of the Manual, grows entirely under water. Where the water has receded, leaving the plants on the mud, the lower capillary leaves are somewhat dried up, while the new leaves at the tip are broader, and pectinate or even linear—like the typical form, in short. On the hard, gravelly bank, where the water can only cover it in the spring, grows a form with short ascending, or almost erect stems, with the leaves all pectinate, serrate or linear—var. *humile* (Raf.) apparently.* This last form bears no superficial resemblance to var. *capillaceum*, but the typical form at once shows the connection.

On a hill above Moody's Pond is a field where a large colony of *Aletris farinosa* grows, and a short distance the other side of the pond is the only locality in which the writer has seen *Cuphea petiolata*. The pond itself during the last summer has furnished several specimens of *Ceratophyllum demersum*, var. *echinatum*, in fruit.

Nearer the shore, but not on the marshes, several things of interest are found, notably *Spiranthes simplex*. This is probably overlooked because of its close superficial resemblance to *S. gracilis*, though on comparing them the differences are apparent. In a large number of specimens examined the root was uniformly a single tuber, while in *S. gracilis* it has always more than one tuber, usually two. With this plant grow *Eupatorium hyssopifolium* and *Chrysopsis falcata*. *Helenium autumnale*, and

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* As shown by Dr. Morong, *humile*, Raf. is the older name for this species.—ED.

Sagina apetala are not rare along the roadside, the latter usually accompanied by *Tissa rubra.* On the dry knolls *Liatris scariosa* is rather common. Here and there are clumps of *Triodia seslerioides,* but usually near the shore.

The brackish marshes furnish a long list of plants, only a few of which can be mentioned here. Among them are *Liparis Lœselii,* (rare in only a single swamp, so far as known), and *Utricularia clandestina,* which is common but not often found in flower. It forms mats on the mud in the bogs, or, in one case, on the surface of a shallow fresh pond. Other characteristic inhabitants are *Œnothera fruticosa, Poterium Canadense,* and in the salt meadows, *Gerardia maritima, Pluchea camphorata* and *Samolus Valerandi,* var. *floribundus,* with here and there *Salicornia mucronata.* On the borders of one marsh a single specimen of *Habenaria ciliaris* was found, and *Cnicus spinosissimus* is an occasional find.

In Stratford *Hibiscus Moscheutos* is abundant, and on the sandy shore of a brackish pond *Sabbatia stellaris, Aster tenuifolius* and *A. subulatus* are common.

Tissa marina is a common beach plant, and on the sand at Black Rock grows *Diodia teres,* with *Polygonum articulatum, Triplasis purpurea, Aristida tuberculosa, Salicornia herbacea, S. ambigua,* and other characteristic beach plants. *Scirpus pungens* is present in two forms, well-marked by habit, though the writer has been unable to detect any difference in fruit. One is much stouter than the other, and forms much larger spikes, several in a cluster, while the other has one small one and looks quite different.

The list given above might be indefinitely extended, but these are the most important finds. Of those mentioned several are not recorded in the Manual as occurring in New England.

New California Plants.

BY S. B. PARISH.

PSORALEA RIGIDA.—Erect, 1–2 ft. high, viscid above and sparsely villous with short black and white hairs intermingled; leaves pinnately 3-foliate, on inch long petioles; leaflets as long, ovate-lanceolate, glabrous and rigid; stipules lanceolate; peduncles shorter than the leaves, bearing a globose head, inch